- Ministry of Health and F.W. has held coordination meetings with concerned Ministries and with WHO.
- Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has obtained the required primers for preparing reagents to diagnose the viruses believed to be causing SARS.
- Media is being kept informed on the efforts made by the Government to prevent SARS from entering the country and to create public awareness.
- The situation is being monitored on day-to-day basis.

Two child norm

3138. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR :
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that two child norm meant to encourage smaller families is crippling women in many States/UTs;

(b) whether some women organizations have approached Government and the National Human Rights Commission complaining that the ground reality on two-child norm is not only against women, but also against the depressed classes; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government to the complaints received from the various organizations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) The National Population Policy adopted by the Government of India in February 2000 advocates for adoption of a small family norm. It affirms the commitment of Government towards stabilizing population of the country by allowing its citizens to make voluntary and informed decisions about their family size.

(b) and (c) On a complaint dated 24-5-2002 received from All India Democratic Women's Association, raising certain important issues relating to the National Population Policy, the National Human Rights Commission called for reports from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Women and Child Development) and the National Commission on Population. Report from the Department of Women and Child Development is still awaited.

The Commission also took *Suo-motto* cognizance on 09-07-2002 of a news item titled "Coercive measures run counter to Population Policy"appearing in the Times of India dated 05-06-2002 wherein it was mentioned that some States *viz.* Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra are preparing to use coercive population control methods in complete violation of national policy and which is also in violation of Human Rights.

The Commission issued notices to the above mentioned five States for a reply within 6 weeks. Reply from the States of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh are still awaited. The Commission is still seized of the matter.

Preventive health care

3139. SHRI RAJU PARMAR :

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that in order to provide health care solutions, focus is now shifting to preventive health care in most of the advanced countries in which early diagnosis plays a crucial role; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take for early diagnosis by procuring health care equipments of international standards ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) : Yes, Sir. There is an increased focus on preventive health care through the medium of preventive health check-ups in diagnosing diseases in the early stages, thereby increasing the chances of recovery. This is specifically so in cancer and cardiac cases. Information, Education and Communication (IEC) is an integral part of all National Health Programmes including these for control of major non-communicable diseases. Through IEC activities efforts are made to generate awareness about benefits of preventive health care. As part of the strategy of preventive healh care, under the Immunization Programme, Vaccinations to infants and pregnant women are given for control of vaccine preventable diseases namely, childhood tuberculosis, diphtheria, pertussis, polimyelitis, measles and neonatal tetanus. For preventing blindness, prophylactic Vitamin 'A' is given to children and prevention of anemia, Iron and Folic Acid tablets are given to children and pregnant women. In addition to these vaccines and medicines, certain equipments are also utilized for early diagnosis. Under the National Cancer Control Programme, Central assistance is provided for purchase of equipments, which include a Cobalt Unit besides other